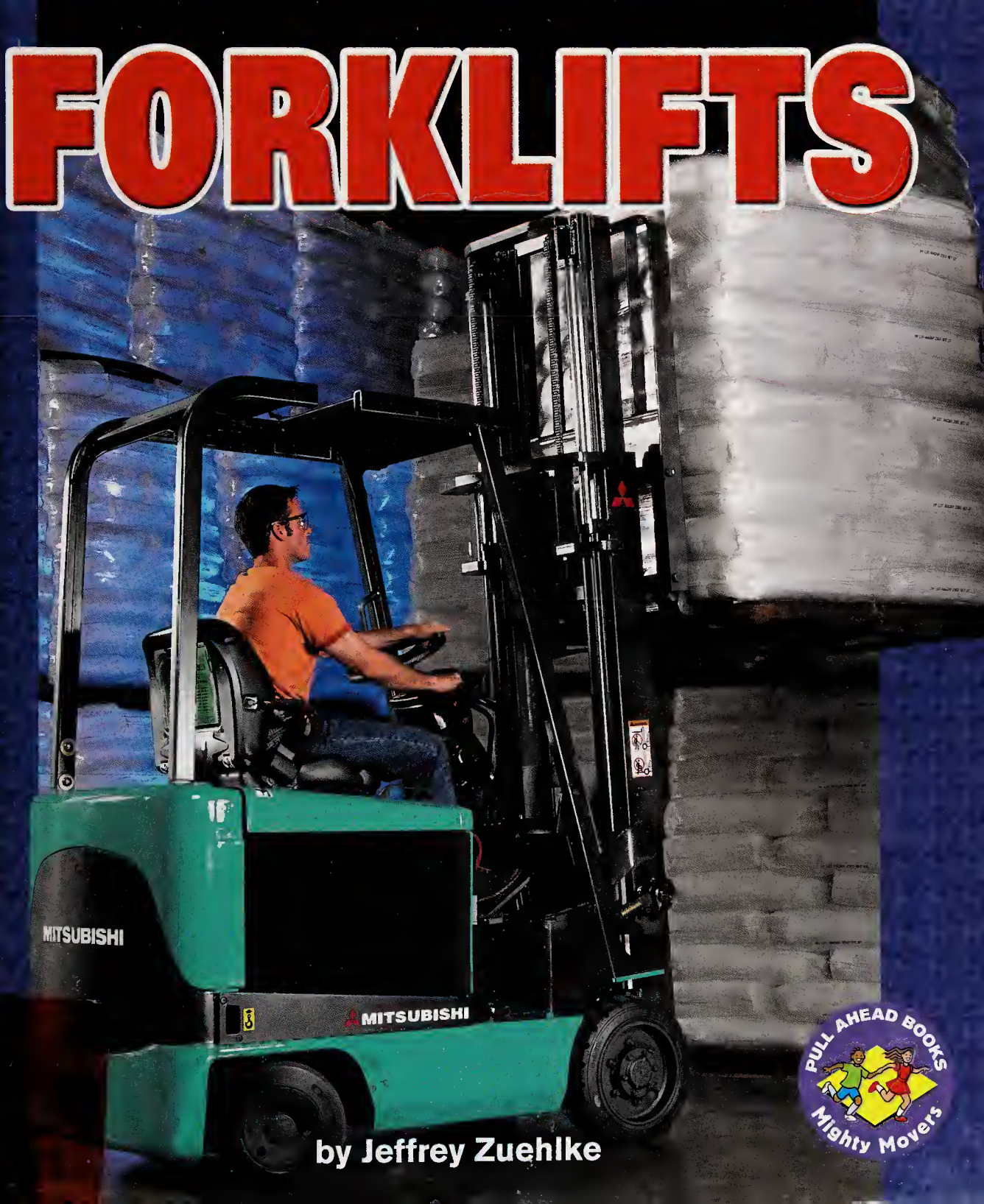
FORKLIFTS



by Jeffrey Zuehlke

PULL AHEAD BOOKS
Mighty Movers

FORKLIFTS

by Jeffrey Zuehlke

Lerner Publications Company • Minneapolis

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Words in **bold** type are explained in a glossary on page 30.

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Hey! All these boxes have to be moved.
What is the best way to move them?

Someone could carry the boxes. But that would take a long time. Is there an easier way?

Here comes a forklift!

Forklifts carry heavy loads.
They get the job done fast.

Forklifts come in different sizes.
This small forklift is called a **walkie.**

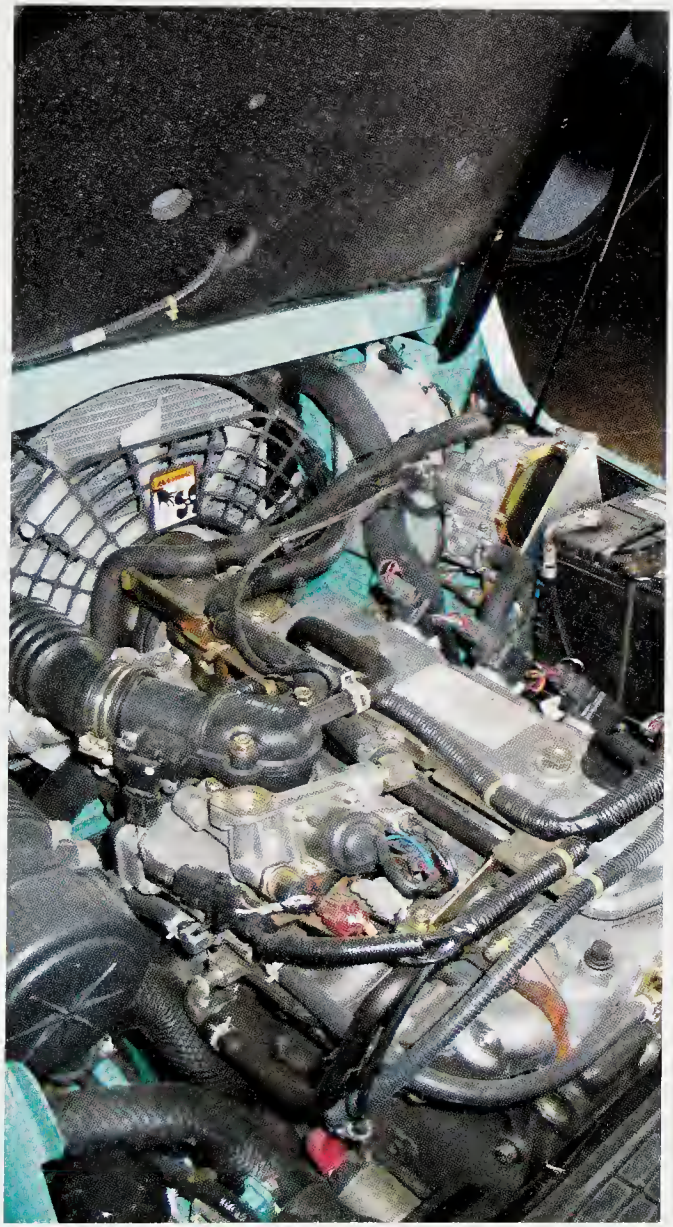
A person can move a heavy load with a walkie.

Big forklifts carry huge loads.
An **operator** drives a big forklift.

A forklift has many **controls.** Each control has a different job.

An operator turns the key to start the forklift. Vroom! The forklift is ready to do its job.

A powerful **battery** runs this forklift.



The engine in this forklift works like a car. It runs on gasoline.

The steering wheel controls the forklift's wheels.

Moving the steering wheel turns the forklift's wheels.

A forklift's pedals work like a car's pedals. Step on the gas pedal to make the forklift move.

This is the **brake pedal.** Step on the brake pedal to stop the forklift.

Ready to go? Let's move a load! This is a **pallet.** Pallets hold forklift loads.

These boxes are stacked on the pallet. They are ready for the next step.

This machine wraps the boxes in plastic. The plastic keeps the boxes from falling off the pallet.

These pallets are wrapped and ready to go!

The forklift's **forks** slide under the pallet.

Watch the forklift at work!

The operator uses the **hoist lever** to raise and lower the forks.

The forks ride up and down on the **mast.** Where is this load going?

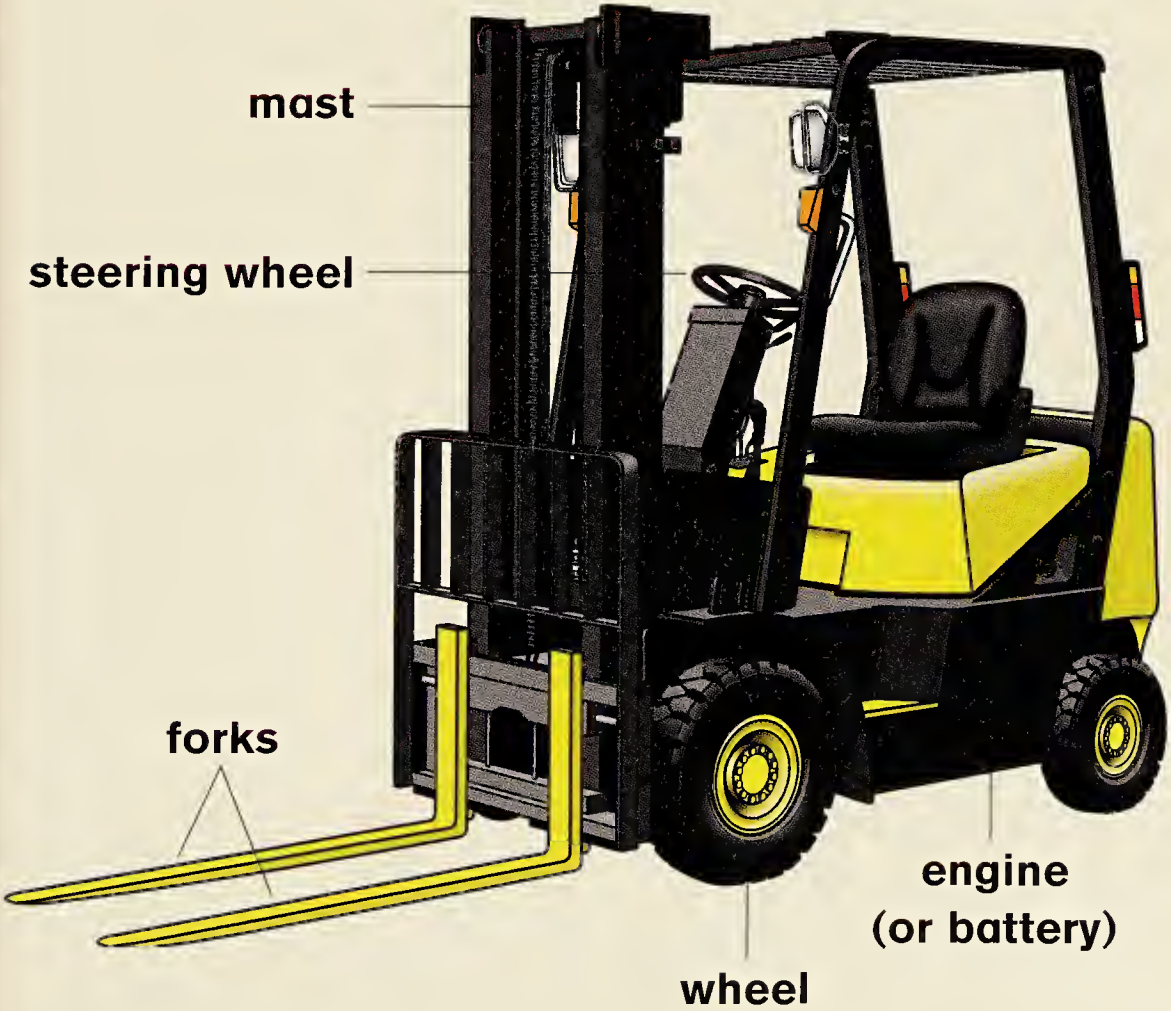
The forklift puts the pallet on a truck. The truck will carry the load to its next stop.

Good job! But this forklift has a lot more work to do!

Facts about Forklifts

- Forklifts are also called lift trucks.
- Walkies are sometimes called pallet trucks.
- A big forklift weighs as much as 8,000 pounds. That's as heavy as two big cars.
- The strongest forklifts can carry about 8,000 pounds.
- Forklifts aren't easy to drive. People need to learn how to drive them. People must practice driving forklifts. And they must pass a forklift driving test. Then they can get jobs as forklift operators.

Parts of a Forklift



Glossary

battery: the part that gives electrical power to motors, toys, and flashlights

brake pedal: the pedal an operator steps on to stop the forklift

controls: the levers, pedals, buttons, and switches an operator uses to run a forklift

forks: metal prongs used for lifting and moving heavy loads

hoist lever: the lever that is used to lift the fork up and down

mast: the part of the forklift that the fork rides up and down on

operator: a person who drives a forklift

pallet: a platform that is used for holding forklift loads

walkie: a small forklift that a person can walk with

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About the Author

Jeffrey Zuehlke has never driven a forklift. But he has spent plenty of time carrying boxes around. Every time his arms get tired from carrying boxes, he wishes he had a forklift to help him.

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Do you know . . .

- what forklifts do?
- how forklifts are loaded?
- how drivers make forklifts move?

Read this book to discover the answers!

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